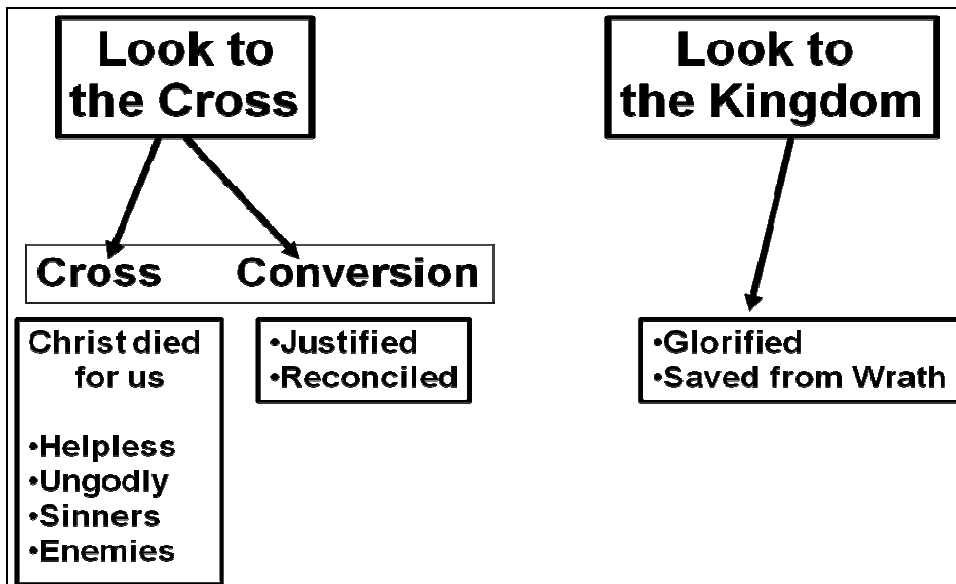
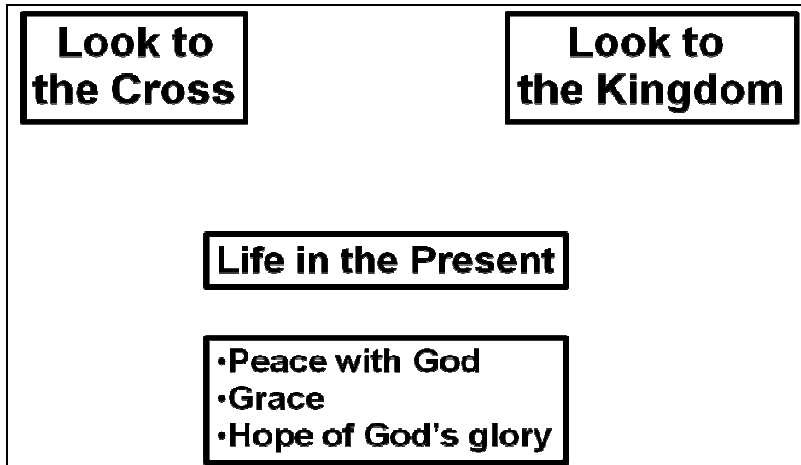


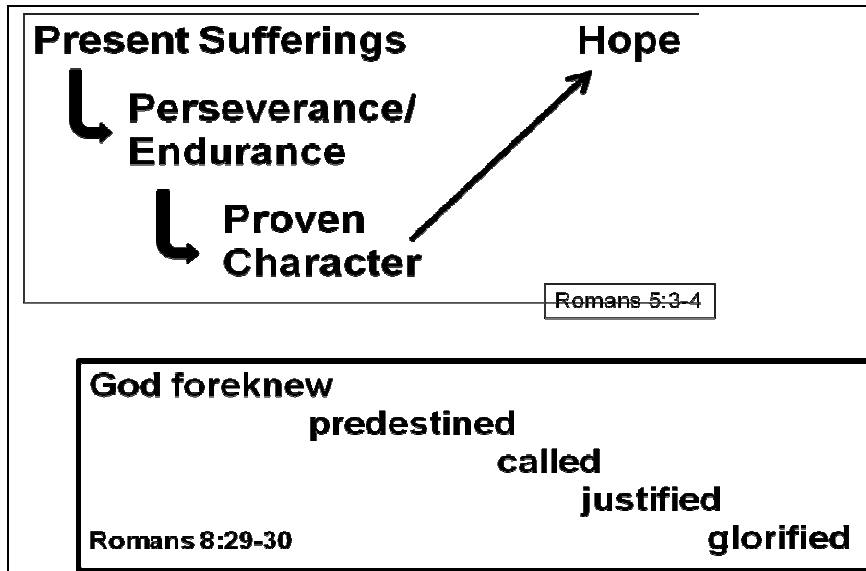
Belonging to Jesus: “Celebrate and Endure”
Romans 5:1-11 and 8:18-39

Last week I introduced a plan to help us become more like Jesus. This plan is an important guide to focus our thinking and our living. The plan looks like this:

- Look at the cross: Remember and Celebrate the Cross and your Conversion
- ⇒ **Look to the Kingdom**
- Be empowered by the Spirit
- Follow Jesus, arm in arm with each other
- Reach the World

Last week we focused on “looking at the cross.” We described this as remembering and celebrating what took place at the cross when Christ died for us and what took place at our conversion. This week let’s “look to the Kingdom” and see how that changes our lives.





Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Read Romans 5:1-11 and identify everything you can about Jesus Christ. For example, in Romans 5:1 we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. What else can you discover?
- What does the word “boast” mean in this context? See Romans 5:2, 3, 11. Other translations have: rejoice, exult, and “shout out our praise.” There is an emphasis on gladness, worship, and praise. What kind of boasting is wrong and what kind is right?
- Share with someone what you’ve learned today. Practice looking to the cross and looking to the Kingdom today.

Wednesday-Thursday

- How would you distinguish “Peace with God” (John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20) from the “Peace of God (Philippians 4:7; John 16:33; Galatians 5:22-23)? How does our culture define peace and how is this different from biblical peace? How does “peace with God” come about? How does the “peace of God” come about?
- Practice sharing with someone how you find peace with God and then share with them how you find peace of God. What can you do today to experience the peace of God?

Friday-Saturday

- Read Romans 8:18-39. How would you distinguish the “present sufferings” from the future glory? What does “groaning” mean on the part of creation and on our part? How does this help us to persevere as well as wait eagerly? What does it look like in real life?
- What observations can you make from Romans 8:31-39? What can you celebrate from this passage? How would it impact your worship of God? Spend some time alone with the Lord today with this passage, allowing him to shape your heart with these truths.